



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands

A. JOEL FRANSEN
*State Forester/
Division Director*

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

NEWS RELEASE

April 21, 2006

Contact: Jim Springer (801) 538-4324

INCREASING INSECT DAMAGE SPURS ACTION AT SUNDANCE

A tiny insect, the Douglas-fir beetle, is beginning to turn the lush green forest of the Sundance area brown. The insect is not only affecting the aesthetics of the area, the dead trees it is creating provide fuel for wildland fire that could result in a major fire threatening life, property and natural resources.

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, in partnership with Sundance Resort, the North Fork Preservation Alliance, BYU-Aspen Grove Center and the USDA Forest Service, will begin a project to help repel such insect attacks in certain locations within a 175 acre area known as Aspen Grove.

Foresters will use a combination of a natural pheromone to repel beetle attack and what are called funnel traps that will lure beetles and trap them before they can move to a new host tree and begin the process that eventually kills it.

"The strategies we're using right now are more of a short-term solution until a long-term approach can be implemented," said Colleen Keyes, forest health coordinator for the division. "Treatments to improve forest health and individual tree vigor are the best long-term solution to prevent bark beetle infestations from harming trees."

The objective of the treatment is to maintain the aesthetics along a well-traveled scenic highway, protect the trees from the insects and thereby reduce fuel loading and increase public safety. The pheromone and traps will be placed on April 25 and 26, and traps will be checked and emptied on a regular basis thereafter.

###